**Friends Beyond Borders**

**The Six Cultural Styles of Close Friendships**

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| ***Interveners***  \*Feel it is their duty, responsibility to take care of their friends  \*Advise, aid, instruct, and influence their friends in positive ways  \*See dependence on friends as a good, healthy thing  \*Often help a friend without being asked  \*Can offer critical advice in the spirit of wanting to help the friend  \*React to unwanted interventions with rebuttal or silent acceptance  \*Can go quite far in their attempts to help a friend in need  \*Tend to be unbothered by lopsided giving/receiving exchanges  \*Like to do things for their friends | ***Independents***  \*Encourage and respect their friend’s individuality, autonomy  \*Value spending time together, lowering stress, having fun  \*Are good listeners, sounding boards for friends having problems  \*Offer encouragement to boost friend’s morale during difficult times  \*Prefer maintaining a strong sense of independence in their friendships  \*See their independent spirit as adaptive and healthy  \*Tend to “keep score” when giving/receiving aid to ensure equality  \*Value “being there” for friends, but don’t see this as a duty |

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| ***Intervener Talk***  \*Minimal apologies for broken promises  \*Less word-oriented communications  \*Words can cheapen deep sentiments  \*Attend to non-verbal cues  \**Kibun* as communicative  \*Social silences as positive or negative  \*See wordiness as insincere/cover-up  \*Talk as less central to friendship  \*Less comfortable with self-disclosure  \*Closeness depends on time, shared experiences, mutual interventions | ***Independent Talk***  \*Detailed apologies for broken promises  \*Very word-oriented communications  \*Words can express deep sentiments  \*Mostly ignore non-verbal cues  \*No equivalent to *Kibun*  \*Social silences nearly always negative  \*See wordiness as an attempt at clarity  \*Talk as central to feelings of closeness  \*Self-disclosure as key to feeling close  \*Closeness depends on self-disclosure, knowing and respecting each other |

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| ***Excluders***  \*Behave differently toward friends versus people unknown to them  \*Tend to be cold, “unfriendly,” and wary towards strangers  \*Feel much more secure in the company of a few close friends  \*Employ a much more formal language with strangers  \*For many Asians, strangers don’t “exist,” even when they are close by  \*Have very well-developed “social skills for closeness”  \*Tend to have low need for social approval from friends or strangers  \*Enjoy spending extended periods of time with a close friend  \*Can be offended by an *Includer* friend’s tendency to talk to everyone  \*Are less comfortable than *Includers* with meeting new people. | ***Includers***  \*Project an open friendly demeanor to nearly everyone  \*Treat close friends and casual acquaintances alike  \*Find friendliness of strangers normal and reassuring; people can be trusted  \*Their friendliness may appear shallow and insincere to *Excluders*  \*Feel/think differently about close friends, but this doesn’t show  \*Have well-developed “social skills for superficial interactions”  \*Feel high need for social approval from everyone, even strangers  \*Are uncomfortable spending prolonged time with friends  \*Tend to use the term “friend” very loosely  \*Others may interpret their friendliness as a desire for friendship |

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| ***Realists***  \*Do not hold idealized notions of their closest friends  \*Think about friends as having both positive and negative traits  \*On surveys, do not rate traits of friends as highly as do *Idealists*  \*Don’t see it as their role to boost the egos of their closest friends  \*Are comfortable speaking directly and frankly with a close friend  \*Can disagree strongly with a friend without it feeling like a conflict  \*Are less concerned about issues of face with their closest friends  \*Rate friends less highly, thus lowering scores on relationship closeness  \*See friendships as predestined; thus not needing “maintenance” | ***Idealists***  \*Tend to hold positive illusions about their closest friends  \*Think about their friends as having mostly positive traits  \*On surveys, rate their friends higher than do *Realists*  \*Rate friends positively, indirectly enhancing their own self-esteem  \*Tend to avoid strong disagreement with close friends  \*Emphasize the positive when in the company of their close friends  \*Are concerned about issues of face with their closest friends  \*Their positive ratings result in higher scores on closeness  \*See friendships as fragile, needing constant “maintenance” |